

SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE



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BULLETIN OF
SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE



CURRICULUM CHANGES

AND

HONORS WORK

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CURRICULUM CHANGES AND HONORS WORK

This bulletin is issued to announce modifications in the requirements for the degrees at Sweet Briar, a plan for summer reading, the group method of selection of freshman and sophomore courses, a changed requirement in the major subject for graduation, and a two-fold plan of Reading for Departmental Honors. These plans are the result of the work of a Faculty Committee during the last two years.

These new provisions apply to students entering in 1932-33. Other students have the privilege of falling in with the new plans, if they desire and if the necessary adjustments in their work can be made, or of continuing to graduation under the provisions in force at the time of their entrance.

The new plans are not at all revolutionary but rather form a pointing-up of existing virtues and a re-grouping of material of advantage in the promotion of scholarly achievement. It is expected that they will accomplish increased interest during the first two years because of a sense of freedom of choice, safeguarded against unconstructive sampling; increased concentration and integration within a given field in the last two years with its consequent sense of achievement; more chance for adjustment to the individual student; a definite opportunity for gifted and ambitious students by reading for departmental honors to go as much further than degree requirements as their abilities should take them.

Attention is called to the fact that reading for departmental honors connotes a different method of work as much as an opportunity for more work than the classroom alone affords and that it would seem applicable to all able and ambitious students who cared to do it, and not only to the highly distinguished student.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION

Before graduation, a student must have (1) a reading knowledge of French or German, and a reading knowledge of Greek or Latin; or, (2) a reading knowledge of French or German, and an elementary knowledge of the other of these two languages or of Italian or of Spanish.

These requirements may be absolved by examination, or, in special cases, by certification by the department concerned. Examinations will be held in September and in March of each year. Freshmen are not permitted to take either of these examinations until March of their first year. Students are urged to meet this requirement as early as possible. If, for any reason, a student is unable to fulfill these requirements by September of the junior year, she will be expected to take the necessary language courses. In the case of transfer students, whenever necessary, special arrangements may be made by the Dean for the satisfactory fulfillment of these requirements before graduation.

A reading knowledge of Latin represents preparation equivalent to the four-unit entrance require-

ment plus six semester hours in college, or the equivalent of Latin 1-2 and Latin 11-12.

A reading knowledge of Greek represents preparation equivalent to Greek 1-2 and Greek 103-104.

A reading knowledge of French or Spanish represents preparation equivalent to the facility a student is expected to attain who has successfully completed the first semester of French 27-28 (or Spanish 27-28), or of French 29-30.

A reading knowledge of German and Italian represents preparation equivalent to two college years in either of these languages; that is, to the satisfactory completion of German 3-4, or of Italian 3-4.

An elementary knowledge of French, German, Italian, or Spanish represents preparation equivalent to either two years of pre-college training, or one year of college training; that is, to the satisfactory completion of French 1-2, of German 1-2, of Italian 1-2, or of Spanish 1-2.

PLAN FOR SUMMER READING

Departments shall prepare a summer reading list for courses in connection with which they deem that private reading can profitably be done. These lists with discussion of them shall be given the students in such courses in the second semester of each year. This is intended to stimulate wide reading and personal initiative among all students, and will offer the only chance freshmen will have to do supervised summer reading.

A sophomore or a junior, who has done sufficiently well in a course to make her instructor think she can do so with profit, may arrange with the approval of the department to do special summer reading from lists prepared for that course, take an examination on it at the opening of college the following fall, and if successful in the examination, may receive an hour of credit designated: Private Reading, Credit one hour, Course ——. Such reading assignment for credit in connection with each course shall be submitted along with the description of that course to the Committee on Instruction. No student is to do such reading for credit in more than two courses in one summer.

EXAMINATIONS

In the case of all students, in all courses extending throughout the year, midyear grades shall be recorded in the Registrar's office, but the grade recorded at the close of the year shall be the permanent grade for the year's work. In the case of juniors and seniors, in courses extending throughout the year, wherever practicable, the final spring examination shall presuppose a synthetic grasp of the whole year's work, and shall include questions bearing upon the work of the first semester in its relation to the work of the second semester. Whenever this is done, it is recommended that there be a three-hour examination.

GROUP PLAN AFFECTING DIRECTLY THE FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE YEARS

Freshmen are normally expected to take from 13 to 15 hours each semester (not including required work in physical education).

Sophomores are normally expected to take 15 or 16 hours each semester (not including required work in physical education.)

During the first two years, courses shall be elected from the following major fields of knowledge, distributed as follows: Group I, 18 hours, of which six shall be English; Group II, 14 hours, of which two shall be hygiene, and six a laboratory science; Group III, 12 hours, of which six shall be history; Group IV, as advised, with no number of hours specified.

Group I Language and Literature (18 hours)

English	Greek
French	Italian
German	Latin
Spanish	

*Group II Natural and Mathematical Sciences (14 hours)

Botany	Mathematics
Chemistry	Psychology
Hygiene	Physics
Zoology	

Group III Social Studies (12 hours)

Biblical Literature	History
Economics	Philosophy
Government	Sociology

*Candidates for the B.S. degree must complete a total of twelve hours of laboratory science before graduation.

Group IV Fine Arts

Art

Music

That is, before the junior year, a student should have completed at least 44 hours in the first three groups, distributed as follows:

Group I	18 hours
Group II	14 hours
Group III	12 hours

Of these 44 hours, 18 are prescribed for the freshman year, as follows:

English Composition and Principles of Rhetoric	6 hours
*Latin or Mathematics	6 "
Modern Language	6 "

This will leave a maximum of 16 hours of free electives which may be chosen from any of the four Groups during the first two years.

In addition to the prescribed and elective courses in the four Groups, the required work in the Department of Physical Education shall be taken during each of the first two years—two credit-hours each year.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. It is understood that, on the recommendation of the Dean, exceptional cases may be referred to

*Students presenting 4 units of Latin for entrance may, upon consultation with the head of the department, be allowed to take Greek 1-2 in place of Latin 11-12. If this is followed by Greek 103-104, the student may be excused from the requirement in Latin or Mathematics upon the completion of Greek 103-104.

the Executive Committee of the Faculty for consideration, whenever the requirements of the Group Plan seem to be at variance with the best interests of the student.

2. An opportunity will be given to qualified freshmen or sophomores to take an achievement examination on the content of any of the following courses, without attendance on the course, in order to make them eligible for more advanced courses in the given department, or to absolve the requirement for the degree: English 1-2 and English 103-104; Hygiene 1-2; Mathematics 1, 2, 3, or 6; courses in Modern Languages in which the student is prepared; other courses subject to the recommendation of the department concerned. Satisfactory passing of such examinations will not diminish the number of hours required for the degree, but will eliminate course requirements only, thus allowing greater freedom of election during the first two years. Such examinations will be held in the morning, Thursday, September 15, 1932, and at the opening of the second semester. Application for permission to take the September examinations should be filed with the Registrar's Office not later than September 1. In the case of Hygiene 1 credit will be withheld until the completion of the prescribed health chart.

3. Students are strongly advised to take science in their first year.

4. A year course in the Survey of English Literature (English 103-104) is required for graduation of all students except those who have passed an achievement examination covering the subject matter of this course. It is recommended that students intending

to major in English take this course in the sophomore year; those majoring in English must take it not later than the junior year.

INCREASE IN MAJOR REQUIREMENT

The requirements for the major work of candidates for the degrees have been increased from thirty to thirty-six hours; the distribution of this total number of hours between courses in the major field itself and in allied fields is determined by each department.

READING FOR DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

The proposed plan of reading for departmental honors is in principle the same for all departments, although, in certain details, the procedure in the case of those departments having a relatively large number of major students (namely, the Departments of Economics & Sociology; English; French; and History & Government) differs somewhat from the procedure in those departments having relatively few major students (namely, Chemistry; Greek & Latin; Mathematics; Philosophy, Psychology, & Education; and Physics).

The underlying aim of this plan of reading for departmental honors is to achieve a synthesis of the field of major interest, rather than specialization, with the idea that specialization should be reserved for graduate work. Special attention is also called to the fact that this proposed plan is designed not merely for the very exceptional student, but rather

for any earnest and able student who is really interested in her chosen field, and who is eager to do scholarly work in that field by the method proposed. The aim is to encourage interest in scholarly work by offering this opportunity to as many students as can be expected to profit by it. The exceptional student also will have opportunity under such a plan, and will be rewarded for distinguished work by graduating "with high honors" or "with highest honors." Those whose work meets the requirements of this plan, but is not of exceptional merit, will graduate merely "with honors."

While it is preferable that students be admitted to the honors group at the conclusion of the sophomore year, it is possible in exceptional cases to admit a promising candidate upon recommendation of her instructors in the department at the conclusion of the first semester of the junior year, but not thereafter.

For good and sufficient reason, a student may withdraw from the honors group at the end of the junior year, with the consent of the department, the Committee on Departmental Honors, and the Dean. During the senior year no student may withdraw from the honors group except for very grave reasons which are approved by the department, the Committee on Departmental Honors, and the Dean.

Qualifications of those students who may apply for admission to the group reading for departmental honors

- (1) a credit ratio of 1.5 for the work of the freshman and sophomore years.
- (2) an average grade of B on work taken in the department before the junior year.

- (3) before the junior year, at least one elementary course in the department elected for major work, with the understanding that some departments may require more than one.
- (4) approval of the department.

In the case of the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Physics, candidates for honors work shall give evidence of ability to do work of high grade, in both theoretical and experimental Chemistry (or Physics).

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

Reading, or other work, relating to parts of the major field not covered in courses, shall be designated by the department concerned when a student is accepted for honors work in the spring of her sophomore year (or thereafter). This supplementary work shall be apportioned in such a way that she may, if she wishes, do it during the two summers that lie ahead of her. On such supplementary work done by the student during the summer, the student shall be examined the following September. When done during the junior year, the student shall be examined before May of that year. It is intended that these examinations shall be merely interim tests and checks, and it is not contemplated that the grades shall be recorded in the Registrar's Office, or that they shall in any way be averaged in with the grades on the final examinations.

FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The final comprehensive examination (for which a free reading period of at least one or two weeks

shall be granted in the spring of the senior year) shall consist of (a) two or more written examinations on the major work of both junior and senior years, to be followed by (b) a general oral examination. These final comprehensive examinations shall be completed before the regular examination period. Each oral examination shall be conducted by the department as a whole assisted, when possible, by at least one examiner from outside the college. At least two members of the department shall join in the preparation of the questions of each written examination. The papers shall be read and graded by these members and by the outside examiner.

GRADATION OF HONORS

Students reading for departmental honors may graduate with honors, with high honors, or with highest honors in the department, according to the calibre of work done.

SUPERVISING COMMITTEE

The Faculty Committee on Departmental Honors considers all phases of honors work, including approval of candidates for honors work, approval of units offered for honors work, approval of schedules of honors students, and arrangements of final examinations.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Special provisions for the Departments of Economics & Sociology, English, French (Modern Languages), History & Government are as follows:

A student reading for departmental honors under this plan shall take courses aggregating thirty semester hours within the department in which she is reading for honors, and twelve semester hours in designated courses in allied fields. Thus the total number of semester hours included in the honors work and tested by the final comprehensive examination in the senior year will be forty-two. In view of the extra work undertaken by the candidate for honors outside the required courses, upon passing the final comprehensive examinations, she will be granted three additional hours credit, making a total of forty-five credit hours within the major field. The remaining semester hours (normally fifteen) should be given entirely to electives, preferably outside the department in which the student is reading for honors.

As to distribution of hours between the junior and senior years, it is strongly recommended that an honors student take 30-32 hours in the junior year, 15-16 hours in the first semester of the senior year, and 9-10 in the second semester of the senior year.

Juniors in the honors group shall take the regular examinations in all courses. Seniors in the honors group are exempted from course examinations in their honors work (inasmuch as the final comprehensive examinations in the spring of the senior year will cover the work of the junior and senior years in the major field), but must pass regular course examinations in courses not included in the honors work.

The final comprehensive examinations, both written and oral, must be passed with a grade of A or B

in order to graduate with departmental honors. If passed with a grade of C, the candidate will be allowed to graduate as a major in the department without further examinations, but without honors. A student receiving a grade below C on the final comprehensive examinations will be required, in order to graduate as a major in the department, to pass the regular examinations in courses taken in her senior year. Her standing will be determined by the final grades obtained in individual courses taken in the junior and senior years, as is the case with students not reading for honors. She will, however, automatically receive a grade of D for the additional three hours awarded to honors students only, as they cannot be covered by course examinations.

While this plan is not essentially tutorial, each honors student receives individual supervision. There will be fortnightly conferences with a supervisor, and occasional conferences with instructors in the major subject aiming to assist and encourage the student.

An honors student will be permitted to attend classes voluntarily during her senior year.

The special provisions for the Departments of Chemistry, Greek & Latin, Mathematics, Philosophy & Psychology, and Physics are as follows:

The plan of reading for honors in these departments is tutorial. In general, students working for honors under this plan will not be regularly enrolled in courses, but will pursue their work under the direction of their respective departmental supervisors. There will be at least one weekly meeting

of approximately two consecutive hours of the students and the departmental supervisor. In case there is more than one student, each student will have at least one additional weekly conference with her supervisor.

A student reading for departmental honors under this plan shall take five units (the equivalent of thirty semester hours) within the department in which she is reading for honors, and two units (the equivalent of twelve semester hours) in designated allied fields. Thus the total number of units included in the honors work and tested by the final comprehensive examinations in the senior year will be seven (the equivalent of forty-two semester hours). In the Department of Physics, the seven units will be distributed among physics, mathematics, and chemistry. In the Department of Chemistry, the seven units may be distributed among chemistry, physics, mathematics, and biology. In view of the extra work undertaken by the candidate for honors outside the units required, upon passing the final comprehensive examinations, she will be granted an additional half-unit credit (the equivalent of three semester hours), making her total credit in honors work equivalent to forty-five credit hours. The remaining semester hours (normally fifteen) should be given entirely to electives, preferably outside the department in which she is reading for honors. During both the junior and senior years, the student must pass the regular examinations in elective courses not included in the honors work.

As to distribution of hours between the junior and senior years, it is strongly recommended that a student working for departmental honors under this plan take four units in the junior year; two units in the first semester of the senior year; and one unit in the second semester of the senior year—making a total of seven units in her field of major interest. It is understood that this distribution may be modified by the department to meet the special needs of a student. In addition to these seven units in her field of major interest, she shall take the elective courses necessary to complete the requirements for a degree.

The final comprehensive examinations, both written and oral, must be passed with a grade of A or B in order to graduate with departmental honors. If passed with a grade of C, the candidate may be allowed to graduate as a major in the department without further examinations, but without honors. A student receiving a grade below C on the final comprehensive examinations will be required, in order to graduate, to pass further tests arranged by the department in which she is doing her major work, and must obtain the special recommendation of the department. Inasmuch as the student's credit ratio under these circumstances may be below 1.0, such a case must be referred for final decision to the Committee on Departmental Honors and the Dean.

It is recommended that, in the spring of the junior year, written examinations be arranged by the student's supervisor on the honors work covered in that year, both as a means of affording practice to the

student and as a means of determining a tentative grade (on work equivalent to twenty-four semester hours) for the year's work in the field of major interest. This tentative grade will become final in the event that the student withdraws from the honors group, or from college.

